

Relational App: Avoiding Relational Vampires

"There's An App For That", Part 4 of 5
Pastor Vince DiPaola

A God-Honoring "Stake" For When Relational Vampires Strike

I) GOD CALLS US TO __LOVE RELATIONAL VAMPIRES__.

"If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen... Whoever loves God must also love his brother." (1 John 4:20-21, NIV)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?" (Matthew 5:43-46, NIV)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." (Matthew 5:38-39, NIV)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:10-12, NIV)

II) GOD CALLS US TO __LIMIT RELATIONAL VAMPIRES__.

1) Gabby Gertrude: __CUT OFF THE GOSSIPER EARLY & OFTEN__.

"A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much." (Proverbs 20:19, NIV)

"A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends." (Proverbs 16:28, NIV)

"Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down." (Proverbs 20:26, NIV)

"Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned." (Titus 3:10-11, NIV)

2) Negative Ned: __EMBRACE ONLY CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM__.

"If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject criticism, you will only harm yourself." (Proverbs 15:31-32, NLT)

"Jesus replied, 'Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be rooted up, so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind... they will both fall into a ditch.'" (Matthew 15:13-14, NLT)

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." (1 Peter 2:21-23, NIV)

3) Controlling Carlos: __FOCUS ON PLEASING GOD ABOVE ALL__.

"Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10, NIV)

"For we speak as messengers who have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people." (1 Thessalonians 2:4, NLT)

4) Needy Natasha: __BE A HELPER WITHOUT BEING AN ENABLER__.

"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act." (Proverbs 3:27, NIV)

"Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me. Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes." (Proverbs 1:28-31, NIV)

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Galatians 6:7, NIV)

*Remember: 1) True love always has __TIME-TESTED LIMITS__.

2) Sometimes the best love is __TOUGH LOVE__.

3) Sometimes helping may __BE HURTING__.